



The County Observer

Roanoke County Police Department Crime Prevention Newsletter

Crime Prevention Requires Cooperation From Everyone

TO BE FULLY EFFECTIVE, CRIME PREVENTION REQUIRES ACTIVE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITY GROUPS, BUSINESSES, AND GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

The Mt. Hood Coalition Against Drug Crime, located in rural Oregon, has successfully developed community programs to fight the manufacturing, distribution, and use of illegal drugs. The Mt. Hood Coalition takes a comprehensive approach, involving all levels of government and all available community resources. It trains citizens in drug education and awareness, drug house surveillance procedures, and mentoring to assist those living in drug-involved communities. It also supports treatment programs as well as prevention efforts such as drug-free workplace programs, school drug education efforts, faith community partnerships, and property owner awareness programs. www.hadit.org

Children of incarcerated parents are at risk of many problems, including low self-esteem, poor school performance, delinquency, drug addiction, and gang involvement. Amachi – a partnership of churches, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society

at the University of Pennsylvania, and Public/Private Ventures – seeks to help children in Philadelphia who have parents behind bars by involving caring and supportive adults in their lives. Mentoring takes place in one of three contexts: school based mentoring, community-based mentoring, and church-based mentoring. Amachi also identifies, evaluates, and reports to policy leaders, public officials, and funders the most effective strategies and practices of faith-based mentoring.

www.proclamation.org/amachi.html

Isolation brought on by fear of crime is one of the biggest problems facing the elderly. Crime prevention practitioners agree that frequent interaction between senior citizens and other community members helps increase seniors' sense of security. The St. Louis County (Missouri) Older Resident Program (CORP) involves the police, social service providers, community groups, and religious organizations in order to give seniors the social and mental stimulation that helps keep them alert and alive and less likely to be victims of crime and fear. CORP activities include an opportunities fair; a cable TV show produced by retirees; crime prevention presentations at churches, social meetings, and clubs; telephone reassurance; and help with insurance forms and legal documents. For more information, contact CORP, 314-889-3516.

Editors note: From the National Crime Prevention Council-Monthly Action Kit.

BURGLARIES

The following burglaries were reported to the Roanoke County Police Department during the months of March, April, and May. The data for June was not available at the time of publication.

District one had one residential burglary in the 6500 block of Brookfield Road, one residential burglary in the 8200 block of Past Times Lane, one residential burglary in the 7200 block of Crosstimbers Trail, one residential burglary in the 2900 block of Green Ridge Road, one residential burglary in the 7600 block of Marson Road, one residential burglary in the 5900 block of Buckland Mill Road, one residential burglary in the 7900 block of Carvin Street, one residential burglary in the 8200 block of Reservoir Road, one business burglary in the 7500 block of Barrens Road, one business burglary in the 7000 block of Peters Creek Road, four business burglaries in the 6500 block of Thirlane Road, and one business burglary in the 6800 block of Thirlane Road.

District two had one residential burglary in the 5500 block of Darby Road, one residential burglary in the 5400 block of Endicott Street, one residential burglary in the 6100 block of

Darby Road, one residential burglary in the 2700 block of Gregglin Drive, one residential burglary in the 5300 block of Vistamount Drive, one business burglary in the 7100 block of Williamson Road, and one business burglary in the 6500 block of Williamson Road.

District three had one residential burglary in the 5400 block of Clearbrook Lane, one residential burglary in the 1900 block of Cambridge Drive, one residential burglary in the 3600 block of Rutrough Road, one residential burglary in the 2300 block of Highland Road, one residential burglary in the 4100 block of Lemon Lane, two residential burglaries in the 5100 block of Yellow Mountain Road, one residential burglary in the 200 block of Laurel Hill Drive, one business burglary in the 2200 block of Washington Avenue, one business burglary in the 2100 block of Washington Avenue, and one business burglary in the 5700 block of Kathryn Drive.

District four had one residential burglary in the 3200 block of Chaparral Drive, one residential burglary in the 7700 block of Franklin Road, one residential burglary in the 5900 block of Paddington Circle, one residential burglary in the 8100 block of Boones Chapel Road, one residential burglary in the 8400 block of Starlight Lane, one business of 4300 block of Electric Road, one business burglary in the 5400 block of Franklin Road, one business burglary in the 4100 block of Electric Road, and one business burglary in the 6300 block of Merriman Road.

District five had one residential burglary in the 3800 Sunbreeze Circle, one residential burglary in the 3400 block of Colonial Avenue, one residential burglary in the 3700 block of Green Valley

Drive, one residential burglary in the 4700 block of Mews Hill Drive, one residential burglary in the 3100 block of Honeywood Lane, one business burglary in the 5100 block of Bernard Drive, one business burglary in the 3900 block of Electric Road, and one business burglary in the 4200 Garst Mill Road.

District six had one residential burglary in the 8100 block of Whistler Drive, one residential burglary in the 7200 block Poage Valley Road, one residential burglary in the 5900 block of Blackhorse Lane, one residential burglary in the 3100 block of Longhorn Road, one residential burglary in the 1100 block of Sugar Camp Road, one residential burglary in the 6600 block of Poage Valley Road, one business burglary in the 5000 block of Titan Trail, and one business burglary in the 2000 block of Electric Road.

District seven had one residential burglary in the 6000 block of Botts Hollow Road, one residential burglary 5600 Poor Mountain Road, one residential burglary in the 4000 block of Crossmill Lane, one residential burglary in the 5800 block of West Main Street, and one residential burglary in the 2000 block of Stone Mill Drive.

District eight had one residential burglary in the 4900 block of Keffer Road, and one residential burglary in the 5000 block of Catawba Valley Drive.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Roanoke County Police Department would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduates around the area. We are proud of your hard work and efforts and wish you the very best in the future.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Please be aware that school is out for the summer. This means that more children will be running and playing in neighborhoods. Be very careful and watch your speed. The Roanoke County Police Department will have increased numbers of police patrols in these areas and extra radar enforcement. There will be low tolerance for speeding so please be careful and make this a safe summer for everyone.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Each year over 18000 cars are stolen in Virginia. Sixty percent of the people arrested for auto theft are 20 years of age or younger. This shows that for the most part we don't have organized crime rings, cars are being stolen because of opportunity. Young people steal vehicles to go from one area to another. They will often leave that car and steal another car to drive back.

The best security for your vehicle is a layered approach. The first layer is common sense which simply means lock your vehicle and don't leave items in plain sight. The next layer would be visible and audible deterrents such as steering wheel locks, tire locks, and car alarms. The next layer would be vehicle immobilizers such as fuel cut off switches or smart keys. The final layer would be a tracking system such as "On-Star".

There are a few things that you can do to make your vehicle harder to steal. First and most important is to lock your vehicle at all times. Take the keys with you and never leave a spare key in your car. (Thieves know where to look). Don't leave your car running while it is unattended for even a minute. Keep your registration with you.

When parking your vehicle, park with the wheels turned toward the curb. If your vehicle has rear wheel drive, back into your driveway. By doing these two things it is difficult to tow your vehicle. Always use your emergency brake when parking. If you have a garage, use it. If your vehicle is going to be unattended for a long period of time, physically disable it by removing a wire, battery, or other mechanical device. If your vehicle is tampered with and the ignition is "hot wired", it will not be able to start.

Please take extra precautions with your car so that it is less likely to be stolen. Do not think that simply because it is an older car that it will not be stolen. Thieves look for opportunity and don't necessarily care about looks. Keep in mind that if a car is stolen and taken to a "Chop shop", a \$20,000.00 vehicle can be worth up to \$40,000.00 as spare parts.

ROANOKE COUNTY DECALS

Please be aware that last year's yellow Roanoke County decals for your vehicle expired on May 31, 2005. After midnight on June 15, 2005, the Roanoke County Police Department will start writing summonses for expired decals. If you haven't done so, please purchase them and place them on your windshield. The decals must be placed on the windshield and not in the glove compartment or above the visor. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

UNDERAGE DRINKING

Once again the Roanoke County Police Department would like to congratulate all the College and High School Seniors graduating in May and June. During this joyous time, there are a few things to remember while celebrating, to

help prevent an unnecessary tragedy from occurring:

Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for teenagers.

Alcohol-related car crashes are the number one killer of teenagers in the United States.

Alcohol is the number one drug problem in America.

If you think it can't happen to you, look around. Check your school's yearbooks for the last ten years. Notice how many were dedicated to a student who was killed in an alcohol related crash. Ask your friends how many people they know who have had bad things happen to them when they or someone they knew was drinking. You don't even have to be the one drinking – most teenage passenger deaths are the result of crashes caused by alcohol-impaired drivers.

No matter what the situation, drinking alcohol under the age of 21 is illegal.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Just a quick reminder that "National Night Out" will be held Tuesday evening August 2, 2005. "National Night Out" is a going away party for crime. This is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. We encourage every Neighborhood Watch group to participate with an event. In the past, events have ranged from cookouts and ice cream socials to music and block parties. McGruff, Chief Lavender, and the other officers will be visiting those neighborhoods with events. Please call the Crime Prevention Office at 561-8062 if your neighborhood has an event planned.

ZONING ZIPS

Did you know that any plant, grass, or other vegetation covering a substantial portion of a parcel in Roanoke County must be kept shorter than 12 inches tall? That's right – if the growth of grass and weeds exceeds 11 inches, you may receive a notice from the county Code Enforcement Officers requesting you to cut the grass on your property! Call 772-2068 for more information! For more Planning and Zoning information, visit their website at www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	561-8036
Criminal Investigation	561-8063
Vice-Narcotics	561-8097
Crime Prevention	561-8062
rcrosier@roanokecountyva.gov	
Rape Aggression Defense	561-8092
RAD@roanokecountyva.gov	
AEP (Street Lights, Outages):	1-800-956-4237

Crime Line	344-8500
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WEBSITES

Roanoke County Police
www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/Police

Commonwealth of Virginia
Terrorism Alert System
www.commonwealthpreparedness.virginia.gov/

National Sheriff's Association
Neighborhood Watch Program
www.usaonwatch.org

RVTV 3 – Roanoke Valley
Television
www.rvtv.org